How to Create Terminal Alias to Show/Hide Hidden Files

This is just a transcription of the instructions found online here, written by Ian Lunn.

A Terminal alias is a name or shortcut for one or multiple commands. Using an easy to remember alias, we can turn the above four step process into just one.

An alias can be made temporarily (just for the use of one terminal session) or permanently. As we want this to be a shortcut used now and in the future, let's make it permanent:

1. Open Terminal
2. Type: sudo nano ~/.bash_profile
3. Enter admin password
4. At the bottom of the file enter: alias showFiles='defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES; killall Finder /System/Library/CoreServices/Finder.app'
5. Below that, enter: alias hideFiles='defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles NO; killall Finder /System/Library/CoreServices/Finder.app'
6. Press ctrl + o followed by return to save file
7. Press ctrl + x to exit the file
8. In the terminal type source ~/.bash_profile

Now, whenever you type showFiles into Termial, your Finder will refresh and start showing all the hidden files; alternately hideFiles will refresh Finder and stop showing hidden files.